

## TROUBLE IN BALKANS

PRINCE NICHOLAS, OF MONTENEGRO, HAS GREAT AMBITIONS.

He Wants to Revive the Ancient Serbian Empire and Be the Ruler—The Prince's Character—Cetina.

"There will be trouble in the Balkans before the snow flies," says the old newspaper correspondent in the Light That Failed. In these words Kipling gives expression to the general apprehension among European politicians regarding the Balkan land, that "chessboard of Europe," as it has been called, where, many think, lies the solution of the most perplexing questions of European politics.

Reports from there now are "alarming," every report from there is considered alarming, because when things get started there no one can tell exactly when they will stop.

A general European war might in these critical times be brought on by a comparatively small matter. Russia is aggressive and has a careful eye over this land. Austria does not wish to lose the advantages she has gained. Each of these great powers would call to their aid their allies, so intricate and complicated are the political affairs interwoven.

The disturbing element. Prince Nicholas, of Montenegro, is now the disturbing element. He is endeavoring

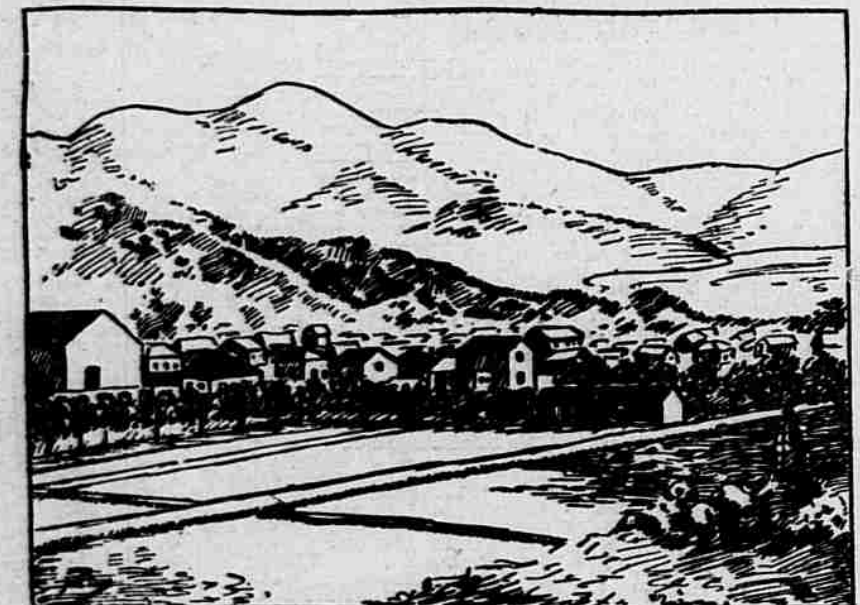
to the Bosphorus, there is no longer any need for this method of warfare. My people must turn from their arms to the development of the resources of the land. This is the lesson that I wish to instill, without at the same time killing the martial spirit by destroying all the glorious traditions of past ages. The eastern part of Montenegro is rich in pastures and in forests and the valley of



MONTENEGRO.

the central part is a most fertile tract; here is our future and our hope. I want to be a father to my people, to lead them aright, to make them a power. In furtherance of this idea, he has established a school in every town and has lectures delivered in every district upon educational matters; has established a post and telegraph lines, built roads and encouraged business and commerce.

As a Writer and Dramatist. He has one newspaper in his principality,



A VIEW OF CETINA, CAPITAL OF MONTENEGRO.

to utilize the disordered condition of affairs in Serbia and Bulgaria to further his ancient plan of founding a Balkan league, in which the Serbian dynasty will not be received, and finally to make himself ruler of a rejuvenated Serbian empire.

The Montenegrs belong to that great race family called the Serbians, and Nicholas considers himself more entitled to recognition as the head of the Serbian people than the ruler of Serbia, the upstart Obrenovitch, whose king, young Alexander, is said to be becoming an imbecile, and whose dissolute father left Belgrade on an excursion ticket that he might more successfully paint Europe red from Paris than from his own capital. It is the dream of the people to collect the scattered remnants of the empire of the great empire, which was swept out of an existence through the cowardice and treachery, or both, perhaps, of their leaders in the fatal field of Kosovo more than 500 years ago. The Montenegrs keep alive the remembrance of this in the little circular cap that they wear: black on sides as mourning for the overthrow of the empire; red on top to signify the blood that was shed, and a gold embroidered rising sun demonstrating the ultimate triumph of the new Serbian power.

## Prince Nicholas and the Powers.

Prince Nicholas is a peculiarly interesting character, ambitious, sincere and thoroughly alive to the interest of his small principality. Had he a larger country he would cut more of a figure in European politics, for his ability as a diplomat and organizer is recognized. Russia has ever been his friend and faithful ally. Alexander III. gave him a steam yacht and called him his "only friend." A military school, with Russian officers as instructors, was established at Cetina; and barracks for soldiers at Cetina; the emperor of Russia founded a school for the sons of the best families of Montenegro; and the emperor, in 1885, sent a cargo of 3,000 rifles and cannons and a full supply of ammunition to him as a present. Russia is now paying him \$17,000 a year as indemnity for the loss of Montenegro sustained in 1813, when she helped to drive the French out of Dalmatia. As a result of all this the prince is a most active ally of Russia and has succeeded several times in proving his friendship by causing no little anxiety to some of the great enemies. Austria has thought best not to molest him, and Turkey has troubles enough without doing anything to incur



PRINCE NICHOLAS OF MONTENEGRO.

his enmity. But how all these nations will act regarding his plans of territorial extension is yet to be seen.

## Nicholas as a Ruler.

The prince's ideas of government are entirely paternal. Under a large tree on the square in front of the palace at Cetina he hears complaints and settles difficulties among his people. He is thoroughly approachable. He endeavors to be always just with his subjects. In an interview he granted me he said that his idea of government was best for his people; they required a strong controlling hand. "If we are to take the high position among the nations of the Balkan land that I aspire to," he said, "there is much that must be changed in our life and manners. For centuries we have been fighting for existence against the Turks. They devastated our land and burned our homes and our people have been living in caves and in the mountains which nature had given as a means of defense and the Moslem power never prevailed. Our old enemy has

the Glas Grogorca, a four-page weekly, printed in Serbian, contains news matter, editorial and advertisements. The prince himself is a contributor. He publishes therein his stories, novels and poems. His manuscripts, however bad, are never rejected, whether he encloses stamps or not. And think of it, ye myriad grinders-out-of-poetry, every one of his verses goes to the printer, and he is paid for it. He is a dramatist, and that his plays might be given, he has a theater, the Cetina Dom, which is also used for a library and reading room, built by the government. His last production, "The Empress of the Balkans" and "The Prince of Arban," both tragedies of tragedies. He superintends the management of his principality in the royal box overlooking his subjects on the nights of the performance. It is needless to add that his plays are received with "the greatest enthusiasm" and that the dramatic critic of Glas Grogorca refers to them as "unprecedented productions of a master mind" and prophesies that each will have an unparalleled run of extraordinary brilliancy.

The prince is of the old family of the Njegosh. For 400 years back the rulers of Montenegro were priest-warriors, Vladika, who paid more attention to the attacks of the Moslem hordes than to the spiritual needs of the people. Some were men of great force and power, the authority they exercised was despotic. They appeared to have had more or less difficulty in keeping their subjects from wearing as waist bands heads of slaughtered Turks. This, to a Montenegrin mind, was a sacred privilege, the symbol of victory. A Russian officer who in the early part of this century visited the country wrote that he saw the Montenegrs with bloody Turkish heads dangling from their hips and shoulders and found more heads sticking upon poles in the public place at Cetina.

The Great Pope, Peter I. Pope Peter, one of the greatest of these warrior-priests, died in 1830, and was succeeded by his son, Peter Petrovic. After it was done the affair struck the people as a little irregular, if not ridiculous, and they called it back word to the effect that they guessed the beatification would go all right.

One of Peter's successors, Danilo I, wanted to get married—the Vladiks never took a wife—so he adopted the title of prince, and set up as a prince and married a pretty girl, the daughter of a French nobleman. When he came back to Cetina he fought the Turks whenever the opportunity presented itself, and married the handsomest woman in the principality. The marriage was a very happy one. The son, the future lord, is a handsome, well bred young fellow, the daughters are remarkable for their beauty; the young prince, that recently married into the Italian royal family is said to be the handsomest woman among the royalty of Europe. The royal residence is the ancient palace in the capital city of Cetina.

## The Road to Cetina.

Cetina, upon a plateau and about twenty-five miles from the Adriatic coast, looks not unlike a village in the Scotch highlands. Its seaport is picturesquely situated Cattaro, which I reached after a rough voyage down the Dalmatian coast. The steep mountain wall rose behind the town, and up this the road went in great zigzag lines. From this great overhanging cliff I looked down upon Cattaro, 4,000 feet below, and its beautiful bay enfolded in mountain arms like an Alpine lake; towards the south were great plains and marshes, and stretching far away to the west the shining surface of the Adriatic. The steep road and the road stretched on, a long white line towards the crest of the mountains; heavenward peak after peak, and around, with some small valleys, with patches of scrubby oak and hollyhomed by curious crag-like pits. A woman passed carrying on her back a bundle of fifty pounds' weight, which she was taking down to the coast. A Montenegrin in the capital city of Cetina, erect, swags by; you feel that you are in the land of freedom; there is upon him no stamp of servitude which Turkish oppression left so indelibly upon those whom the Moslem power has conquered.

Capital of Montenegro. The houses of Cetina, white and generally of two stories, with shops on the ground floor wide open, are built in a regular line along a wide street. In a cross street upon the right is a little park,

with the prince's palace and the government buildings. The former is a white-washed, red tiled Italian villa. The Montenegrs wave from a tall flag pole in front of it and a sentinel in the gorgeous national dress is on duty at the entrance. Opposite is the palace, still called the "Billard Table," by the people because Peter II. brought into it a billiard table and used it to so amuse himself. Between the two is the big tree beneath which the prince hears personally the cases that come up before him.

## The Montenegrs.

There are not more than 200,000 inhabitants, less than Podgorica, down in the valley, and also of less importance as a business point. In the shops are a curious collection of wares, every one appears to have good cigarettes and a good display of filigree work. The street is filled with gorgeously dressed warriors; tall, graceful fellows, rather agile than robust, with well cut, handsome features, dark eyes and hair and short, square faces. Most imposing height and magnificent carriage, they appear what they are said to be, the finest race physically in all Europe. Their national costume is composed of a red embroidered waistcoat under a long frock coat of pale green; or blue, or baggy blue knickerbockers, knee boots or white stockings and low shoes, and a sliver belt which holds a yataghan and sometimes a knife and pistol. As a headgear they wear the peculiar Montenegrin cap.

## The Cetina Hotel.

At Cetina are representatives of six European countries; some of them live there during the year, others have houses at Cetina or some town on the Dalmatian coast. The little hotel at which most of these foreign representatives live is very good for a town the size of Cetina. It is rather an interesting place to stop when all the foreign representatives are in the hotel. But cats are in the house; they have the freedom of the house. I was startled from my sleep the first night under the roof by the catwalk of a cat which had chosen the foot of my bed as the scene for their discussion.

One of the places of interest is the tower which the Montenegrs used to ornament with the heads of Turks whom they had killed in battle. An English traveler in 1848 said that he counted twenty heads on spears sticking in the tower, and many heads lying around the base. Now there is a little pavilion over the tower and it has become a delightful summer house, where the women and children take the evening air and the Cetina young men and women make love.

## Old Convent and Palace.

Beneath this tower stands the convent which is the center of Montenegro's history. The Turks, in one of their incursions, destroyed part of the original convent and the present structure, a long, narrow building with two tiers of arched loggias, was constructed upon the ruins. Here are preserved some of the ancient paraphernalia of the priest-warriors and many relics of the earlier days of Montenegro history.

In the old palace is a museum where are stored trophies of Montenegrin prowess and bravery. A curious enough among these are some English medals. These were given Turkish soldiers in the Crimean war and were afterwards taken from corpses of Turks who had been left upon the field of battle. Here are, too, some reminders of the early years of Montenegro. In fact, there were books printed in Cyrillic character at Obod, not far from Cetina, more than a thousand years ago. A progressive Montenegrin, Mincevich, did not wish that his people should be dependent upon Venice for their religious books, and he set up a printing press of extreme beauty were obtained abroad and the first volume was published in 1492—twenty years before Cetina had been destroyed. Pages from this book, a misal, are still preserved. The Turks destroyed the press in one of their invasions.

## The Finance Department.

In the same building is the office of the finance department. There was one man in charge when I dropped in and he was guarding the whole treasury of the nation with a rusty revolver that lay upon his desk. The amount of the revenue of Montenegro is only \$300,000; it is collected from the different districts and brought to town by a man on horseback. Taxes are made on cattle, land and a rented house; if lived in by the owner it is free. There are custom houses, but duty must be paid on all imported produce that is sold. The prince runs his court on about \$5,000 a year. The treasury sometimes gets pretty low; once, it is said, when the prince went off on one of his junketing tours he took every cent except \$100.

## RAILWAYS OF THE EARTH

Mileage of the Various Countries, America Leading—Persia Has Thirty-four Miles.

From the New York Sun.

A pretty good test of the civilization of a country is to be found in the railroad mileage. Among the important countries of the world the one which stands lowest in respect to railroad mileage is Persia. Persia has just thirty-four miles of railroad—the distance from Brooklyn to Fire Island, no more—and it is made up of the line from Tehran to Shababul-Asin (a good name for a railroad station, I should think); another line twenty miles long was begun, but abandoned later. Persia's distinction as being last in the world in this respect is likely to continue indefinitely.

China and Japan have very generally been supposed to be the countries with the most railroads, but Lord Salisbury as a dying country, Japan is up to date. The area of Japan is approximately 150,000 square miles; the area of China is 1,300,000 square miles, or more than eight times as much. The population of China is in excess of 400,000,000, or ten times greater; and the railroad mileage of China is only 124, while that of Japan was 2,237 by last accounts. The longest of the railroads of China is seventy-three miles from Tientsin to Peking. The Japanese railroads carried last year 70,000,000 passengers, about 10 per cent of the number carried by the railroads of the United States.

There are in this country 130,000 miles of railroads, a mileage greater than that of the whole of Europe, and the whole of South America combined. The extent of the American railroad system, the wonder of all other countries, is better understood when we know that the fact that in proportion to population the United States have more than five times as much as Germany, five times as much as Great Britain and Ireland, more than four times as much as France, more than six times as much as Austria-Hungary, and more than twelve times as much as Russia. The lagged among European nations in respect to railroads is, of course, Spain. The country having the largest railroad mileage in proportion to its area is Belgium. In respect to the rate of increase in railroad mileage Russia stands first, with a gain of 20 per cent in the last five years, Germany's being 7, that of France 8, and of Great Britain 4. There are 9,200 miles of railroads in Africa, and 14,000 in Australia.

## The "Soldier Party."

The soldier parties are fashion's newest diversion. Not alone are these parties diversions, but they are miniature schools of instruction as well. The present interest in naval and military affairs has brought them all about, for the more people read of war movements and the handling of troops in the newspapers the more they realize how little, after all, they know about such matters.

So it happens that there has arisen among well read, well educated people an abounding desire to know more about the army and more of military terms. Some clever woman somewhere got it into her head that the best way to teach people about these things was to have them learn by some sort of actual experience, and she bought, therefore, a stock of tin soldiers and secured an old military man to come around one evening and talk about war and soldiers, illustrating his remarks by moving the soldiers in regiments and divisions on his hostess' big dining room table.

## The Whole Town's A-Taking!

About the Big Sale of the Mattoon Furniture Company's stock. It's like was never seen. It's a sale where the manufacturer's profit has been entirely wiped out. Not even the bare framework of cost is left him. No such slashing of prices has ever been known in the history of the Furniture Business.

### Special Sale of CARPETS AND CURTAINS.

VELVET CARPETS	85c
BRUSSELS CARPETS	70c
BRUSSELS CARPETS	45c
INGRAIN CARPETS	35c
INGRAIN CARPETS	25c
STRAW MATTING	20c
STRAW MATTING	12c
LACE CURTAINS	85c
LACE CURTAINS	\$1.50

All Carpets made, laid and lined free this week.

### MATTOON ODDS AND ENDS.

CENTER TABLES	89c
CANE SEAT CHAIRS	59c
EXTENSION TABLES	\$2.75
SIDEBOARDS	\$6.50
CHIFFONIERA	\$3.48
FOLDING BEDS	\$7.98
FOLDING BEDS	\$16.50
MORRIS CHAIRS	\$5.25
BEDROOM SETS	\$9.50
BEDROOM SETS	\$16.50

## IRON CRIBS.

White enamel, brass trimmed, with woven wire springs, one side drop, like cut, worth \$9; sale price..... **\$4.75**

### MEDICINE CHESTS.

Solid Oak, with mirror door, like cut, well made and finished, worth \$3.00, Sale Price..... **98c**

### A BIG CUT IN SIDEBOARDS.

Solid Oak, like cut, worth \$12.50, Sale Price..... **\$6.50**

Solid Oak Folding Book Shelves (like cut), worth \$2.50; this week..... **98c**

Child's Adjustable Carriage and Table, Table Chair, like cut, worth \$2.50; this week..... **\$1.28.**

# Balloons for Navy

1104-1106 MAIN STREET.

Cash or Credit.

NO MAIL ORDERS FILLED THIS WEEK

## BALLOONS FOR NAVY

THEY HAVE BEEN TESTED AND FOUND ALTOGETHER PRACTICAL.

The German Pattern Likely to Be Adopted in This Country—Its Advantage Over the Old Pear-Shaped Balloon.

Recent experiments have emphasized the importance of the captive balloon in widening a fleet's powers of observation. The Germans have evolved a curious aerostat that by virtue of its shape and peculiar properties is especially well adapted to the greater range of naval work, and our own balloons will embody the general features of the German design.

The balloons will really be three balloons

acting in concert. The first and largest is like an immense sausage, and bears the main burden of the loaded car. The second is somewhat similar in shape, but hugs the first balloon like a creeping caterpillar. The second and smaller balloon acts principally in the capacity of a rudder and aids materially in holding the balloon in a peculiar position, while the third and smallest spheroidal balloon trails along independently behind at some distance, and serves in the same steadying capacity that

usually like the position of the kite common to every school boy; and it is just in that way that the force of the wind is utilized to increase the balloon's buoyancy and to subserve also to that peculiarly marked steadiness or directness of flight. Made up, as it is, in three separate parts, it is less liable to total and instant collapse in case of puncture, and it is even possible to secure a wider margin of safety by subdividing the interior by this membranous walls and fitting them with little valves which serve in the same steadying capacity that

fire, which would enable the balloon to be filled, but which at the same time would shut off automatically an injured compartment by virtue of the unimpaired force of the neighboring good ones. A happy chance shot that might damage one or even two of the compartments would only cause the balloon to sink slowly like an exhausted bird, and would either enable the aeronauts to prepare for a jump in safety or permit the balloon to be drawn beyond the reach of further attack before touching

These balloons are built up in sections out of a wonderfully light but very tough material of silk—a strip a yard long being equal to bearing a burden of half a ton; and a balloon capable of raising a party of four persons will scarcely weigh more than a good sized boy of 10.

**Taking Photographs.**

With the modern equipment of long distance or telescopic photography it is possible from a base so steady as one of these balloons to take pictures of the enemy's coast, forts, hidden batteries and the locations of his vessels and his vulnerable points of defense. This is not speculation, but an accomplished fact.

In all probability one of the auxiliary vessels will be assigned each day to serve as a balloon depot, and a good wide stretch of deck will be set apart for the storage of the balloons, its rigging, and for its ascension and subsequent return. The hydrogen gas will be made either down on deck or supplied by pipe to the balloon in stout steel cylinders, which can be carried where most convenient and fed directly into the great folds of the "aerostat."

When all is ready the observing officers step into the car, a fine steel rope, under mechanical control, is let out, and the balloon rises like a great kite high into the air. The ship gets under way, and with the balloon appearing scarcely larger than a good sized orange starts in toward the coast on its mission of observation and detection. Telephonic communication is kept up with the occupants of the car, and the direction of the wind is noted. The car at once responsive to the guidance of the watchers in the tiny car a quarter of a mile above. When the time comes for their reconnaissance the winding machine is started, and they are quickly and easily drawn down, while a little skillful maneuvering lands them on deck, and the nimble seamen soon have the balloon snugly anchored and covered against mishap.

**Work Night or Day.**

The work can be carried on night and day, and with wider application than possible to a fixed military base, and its use on board a naval craft as an auxiliary to operations of the army would be of incalculable value.

The balloon has ascended from the depot on its mission of observation and detection, height was fastened to the light draught and feather torpedo boat. This boat has crept to the neighboring coast under cover of the darkness and sought the temporary shelter of some jutting arm of the land. As the first light of early morning rises, the balloon, like a pointing eagle, soars high above the enemy's defenses, but not so far as to be beyond the piercing reach of its telescopic eyes. There, practically like the position of the kite common to every school boy; and it is just in that way that the force of the wind is utilized to increase the balloon's buoyancy and to subserve also to that peculiarly marked steadiness or directness of flight. Made up, as it is, in three separate parts, it is less liable to total and instant collapse in case of puncture, and it is even possible to secure a wider margin of safety by subdividing the interior by this membranous walls and fitting them with little valves which serve in the same steadying capacity that

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**PIONEER IN FEDERAL COURTS.**  
Miss Florence Higgins First Woman Admitted to Practice in United States Circuit Courts.

Miss Florence E. Higgins, of Valparaiso, is the first woman in Indiana to be admitted to practice at the bar of the United States circuit court. She is also the first woman to be admitted to the bar of the

supreme court of the state of Indiana. Miss Higgins was graduated the other day with the class of '98 from the Northern Indiana law school, and was the only woman in the class. She was given the degree of LL. B. and was at once admitted to the two courts named. Miss Higgins is a pleasant, well educated, and capable young woman. She has most of the qualifications that go to make up a successful man. She knows politics, history, letters and science, and will, no doubt, be able to advocate as she has been a student.

**Conquered.**—She "if you write me while I am in the country I shall return your letters unopened."—The "Very well, then I'll have to wait for your cards." And you know a country postmaster's wife has a good deal of spare time.—Indianapolis Journal.

**MISS FLORENCE E. HIGGINS.**